

Andropogon hallii Colorado Plateau Herbaceous Vegetation

MAP CLASS	Sand Bluestem Grassland
COMMON NAME	Sand Bluestem Colorado Plateau Herbaceous Vegetation
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS	Herbaceous Vegetation (V.)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS	Perennial graminoid vegetation (V.A.)
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP	Temperate or subpolar grassland (V.A.5.)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP	Natural/Semi-natural (V.A.5.N.)
FORMATION	Tall sod temperate grassland (V.A.5.N.a.)
ALLIANCE	<i>Andropogon hallii</i> Herbaceous Alliance

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL Weak

USFS WETLAND SYSTEM Upland

RANGE

Wupatki National Monument

Sand Bluestem Colorado Plateau Herbaceous Vegetation is an uncommon association within Wupatki NM. This association was identified from only one relevé on top of Woodhouse Mesa adjacent to the Visitor Center at Wupatki NM. This association may occur as small patches in other areas within the park; however, these areas were not sampled or may be below the minimum mapping unit.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

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This association's elevation was recorded at 5,151 ft/1,570 m on a level basaltic outcrop.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

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Stratum

Herbaceous

Species

Andropogon hallii

ASSOCIATED SPECIES

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Ephedra torreyana, *Fallugia paradoxa*, *Hesperostipa comata*, *Ericameria nauseosa*, *Pleuraphis jamesii* (all occur with >1% cover)

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

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Sand Bluestem Colorado Plateau Herbaceous Vegetation total vegetation cover was 40%, with 8% in the shrub layer and 36% in the herbaceous layer. Within the one relevé sampled the total species diversity was 12.

The shrub layer was not dominated by a single species. In the herbaceous layer *Andropogon hallii* dominated with 23% absolute cover.

CONSERVATION RANK G?

DATABASE CODE Cegl002785

MAP CLASSES

The association Sand Bluestem Colorado Plateau Herbaceous Vegetation was mapped when located in the field as a park special represented by Sand Bluestem Grassland (map code 7). However, due to this association occurring in low frequency and with a difficult photosignature to distinguish, this association type often mapped as an inclusion in the map class Galleta Mixed Grasslands.

The total area of the park special Sand Bluestem Grassland in Wupatki NM is 9 ac (4 ha) within 5 polygons. The total area of Sand Bluestem in the project environs is 3 ac (1 ha) within 4 polygons.

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
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COMMENTS

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This association may have a patchy distribution within Wupatki NM; a more extensive survey is needed in order to understand the distribution of this vegetation association.